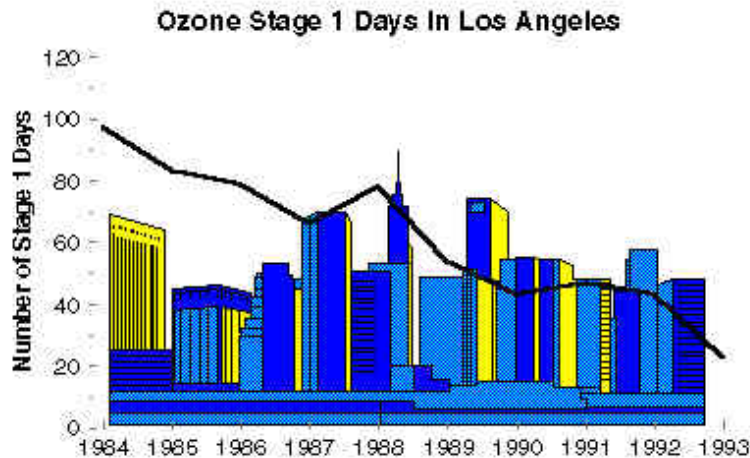


PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING OZONE POLLUTION (SMOG)

Ground level ozone pollution remains a pervasive problem in the United States. Ozone is not emitted directly into the air but is formed through chemical reactions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds with sunlight. Since ozone is not a localized hot-spot problem, effective control programs must take a broad view of the problem and involve a lot of stakeholders.

Los Angeles, California is the only area in the country classified under the Clean Air Act Amendments as "extreme" for ozone and it has by far the highest ozone concentrations nationwide. The large number of motor vehicles and the frequent occurrence of air inversions that trap pollutants contribute to this problem.



Los Angeles has, however, realized significant gains in its efforts to reduce ozone pollution. High levels of ozone, the major component of smog, can be evaluated by the number of days that the concentration exceeds 200 parts per billion. These are referred to as stage-one days. In the decade between 1984 and 1993, the number of stage-one days was reduced from a high of 97 in 1984 to 23 days in 1993.

To meet these continuing challenges, EPA worked with the local government agencies, activists, industry and the public to develop a Federal Implementation Plan to clean up the air in Los Angeles and its surrounding communities. EPA's approach encouraged the use of innovative strategies sensitive to the needs of individual communities to address continuing air pollution problems. Most important, EPA's extensive public involvement helped to inspire widespread public support for and participation in the state and local air quality planning process, which culminated in the development of state implementation plans by state and local agencies. These plans reaffirmed the communities' leadership in solving local air quality problems.

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